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A Pleasant new Ballad betweene King Edward the fourth, and a Tanner of Tamworth, as hee rode vpon a time with his Nobles on Hunting, towards Drayton Bassett.



In Summer time when leaues greio grene,
and birds sitting on euery tree:
King Edward would a hunting ride,
some pastime for to see.

Our King he would a hunting ride,
by eight a clocke of the day,
And well was he ware of a bold Tanner,
come riding on the way.

A good russet coat the Tanner had on,
fast buttoned vnder his chin:
And vnder him a good Cowhide,
and a Girdle of foure shilling.

How stand you here good my Lords all,
vnder this trusty tree:
And I will wend to yonder fellow,
to know from whence came hee.

God speed, God speed, then said our King,
thou art welcome good fellow (quoth hee)
Which is the way to Drayton Bassett:
I pray you shew it to me.

The way to Drayton Bassett,
from this way as thou dost stand,
The next paire of Gallowes thou comest to,
thou must turne vpon the left hand.

What is not the way then said our King,
the readiest way I pray thee shew mee.
Whether thou be thiefe or true man quoth the Tan-
I am weary of thy company. (ner,

Away with a vengeance quoth the Tanner,
I hold thee out of thy wit:
For this day haue I ridden and gone,
and I am falling yet.

Go with me to Drayton Bassett, said our King,
no Dainties we will lacke:
For we'll haue meat and drinke of the best,
and I will pay for the shot.

Godmercie for nothing quoth the Tanner,
thou shalt pay for no dinner of mine:
I haue more groats and nobles in my purse,
than thou hast pence in thine.

God save your goods then said our King,
and send them well to thee.
Be thou thiefe or true man said the Tanner,
I am weary of thy company.

Away with a vengeance quoth the Tanner,
of thee I stand in feare:
The apparell thou wearest on thy backe,
may seeme a good Lord to weare.

I neuer stole them said our King,
I sweare to you by the rod:
Thou art some Russian of the Countrey,
thou ridest in the midst of thy good.

What newes doe you heare then said our King,
I pray what newes do you heare:
I heare no newes answered the Tanner,
but that Cowhides be deare.

Cowhides, Cowhides then said our King,
I marvel what they be.
Why art thou a foole quoth the Tanner:
looke I haue one vnder mee.

Yet one thing of thee I would thee pray,
so that thou would not be strange:
If thy Girdle be better than my Sted,
I pray you let vs change.

But if thou needs with me wilt change,
as change full well may wee:
By the faith of my body quoth the Tanner,
I looke to haue boot of thee.

What boot wilt thou aske then said the King,
what boot wilt thou aske on this ground:
No pence nor halfe pence said the Tanner,
but a Noble in gold so round.

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The second Part of King Edward the fourth, and the Tanner of Tamworth.



Heres twenty good groats then said the King,
so well paid see that you be :
I loue thee better than I did befoze,
I thought thou hadst ne're a penny.

But if so be we must needs change,
as change we must abide :
Though thou hast gotten Wocke my Mare,
thou shalt not haue my Cow-hide.

The Tanner he tooke the good Cow-hide
that of the Cow was hilt,
And threw it vpon the Kings Saddle,
that was so fairely gilt.

Gods helpe me, helpe me by quoth the Tanner,
fall quickly that I were gone :
For when I come home to lillian my wife,
she'll say I am a Gentleman.

The King tooke the Tanner by the leg,
he girded a fart so round :
You are very homely then said the King,
were I aware I'de a laid you o'th ground.

But when the Tanner was in the Kings Saddle,
astonied then hee was :
He knew not the Stirrops that hee did weare,
whether they were gold or brasse.

But when the Stead saw the black Cow-taille wag,
for and the blacke Cow-horne :
The Stead began to run away,
as the Deuill the Tanner had borne.

Untill hee came vnto a nooke,
a little beside an Ash :
The Stead gaue the Tanner such a fall,
his necke was almost brast.

Take thy horse againe with a vengeance, hee said,
with mee hee shall not abide :
It is no maruell said the King, and laught,
he knew not your Cow-hide.

But if that wee must needs now change here,
as change well that we mote :
He sweare to you plaine, if you haue your Pa
I doe looke to haue some boot.

What boot wilt thou aske, quoth the Tanner,
what boot wilt thou aske on this ground :
No pence nor halfe pence, said the King,
but in gold twenty pound.

Heres twenty groats said the Tanner,
and twenty more I had of thine :
I haue ten groats more in my purse,
we'll drinke five of them at the Wine.

The King set a Bugle horne to his mouth,
that blew both loud and shrill,
Then five hundred Lords and Knights,
came riding ouer a hill.

Away with a vengeance quoth the Tanner,
with thee Ie no longer abide :
Thou art a strong thiefe, yonder be thy fellows
they will steale away my Cow-hide.

So I protest then said our King,
for so it may not be :
They be Lords of Drayton Bassett,
come out of the North country.

But when they came befoze the King,
fall loe they fell on their knee :
The Tanner had rather than a hundred pound
hee had been out of their company.

A Coller, a Coller, then said the King,
a Coller that he did cry :
When would hee ha'giu'a thousand pound,
hee had not been so rie.

A Coller, a Coller, quoth the Tanner,
that is a thing will breed sorrow,
For after a Coller cometh a halter,
and I shall be hanged to morrow.

So doe not feare, the King did say,
for pastime thou hast shewne me :
No Coller nor halter thou shalt haue,
but I will giue thee a fee.

For Plumton Parke I will thee giue,
with the Tenements thre best :
Which is worth five hundred pound a yeare,
to maintaine thy good Cow-hide.

Godamercie, Godamercie, quoth the Tanner,
for this good deed thou hast done :
If euer thou comest to merry Tamworth,
thou shalt haue clouting leather for thy shone